

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: May 25, 2011
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care

BILL NUMBER: SB 177
AUTHOR: T. Strickland

BILL SUMMARY: Congregate Living Health Facilities

This bill would increase the bed limit from 12 beds to 25 beds for specified congregate living health facilities (CLHF) operating in the County of Santa Barbara.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Public Health advises the additional workload, such as chart reviews and resident interviews, would be minimal and absorbable since the number of facilities affected would be limited.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral with regard to this bill as the costs for increased workload would be minor and absorbable.

Current law prohibits a CLHF from having more than 12 beds. This limit is increased to 25 beds for CLHFs that are not operated by a city and county, are servicing persons who are terminally ill and/or have a life-threatening illness, and are located in a county with a population of 500,000 or more persons.

This bill would further increase the 25-bed limit for CLHFs that are not operated by a city and county, are servicing persons who are terminally ill and/or have a life-threatening illness, and are located in the County of Santa Barbara.

According to the author, Santa Barbara County has only 1 licensed hospice facility with 6 beds, and has a waiting list of 8 to 12 patients. Based on a community needs study, the operators of the facility, Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care (VNHC) decided to build a new 18-bed facility, which began construction in 2009. Given the current statutory restrictions on bed limits, VNHC plans to serve 12 patients in the new facility but will expand to 18 patients if this bill or similar legislation is enacted. The author states the extra six beds this bill will provide are critical to the delivery of hospice care in the Santa Barbara region of the central coast.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							Fund
	RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Code
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No	-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----					0001

Analyst/Principal (0551) B. Nunes	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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